

**CLAIMS**

1. Method for reading images on a diagnostic workstation, comprising the steps:

- 5      - loading a sequence of images into the workstation,
- loading into the workstation a Dynamic Display Protocol (DDP) containing a set of rules included in a hanging protocol that automatically determines how the sequence of images is to be presented on at least one monitor for viewing the images,
- 10     - providing a set of clinical applications in a storage means,
- configuring at least one of said clinical applications as being a part of said hanging protocol,
- checking by means of said Dynamic Display Protocol if matching criterias for said hanging protocol are met by the sequence of images to be read and
- 15     - automatically starting by said Dynamic Display Protocol a clinical application being part of a hanging protocol which matching criterias are met by the sequence of images to be read.

20    2. Method according to claim 1, comprising the step:

- associating with said hanging protocol at least one image displaying specifics from the group of: viewing mode, layout, W/L-settings, zooming, image orientation, sorting of the image sequence, splitting of the image sequence into pseudo-series.

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3. Method according to claim 2, comprising the step:

- including in said set of clinical applications at least one from the group of:  
3D displaying application, Multi Planar application, Orthopedic tools,  
30   Advanced measurement tools, Cardiology tools, Treatment planning,  
      Image processing and analysis applications, CT and MR tools, Nuclear

medicine tools, Teaching files and encyclopedic types of applications, Reporting tools. Computer Aided Diagnosis tools.

- 5    4. Method according to claim 3, comprising the step:  
- running said clinical application in a clinical context which is the same for the clinical application and for the software used on the workstation, wherein said clinical context is one from the group of: patient identity, instance(s) of examination, instance(s) of images.

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5. Method according to claim 4, comprising the step:  
- identifying the clinical applications with a unique identifier
6. Method according to claim 5, comprising the step:  
- storing said clinical application on the diagnostic workstation host.

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7. Method according to claim 5, comprising the step:  
- storing said clinical application on a server and  
- starting said clinical application on request by the Dynamic Display Protocol.

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8. Method according to claim 5, comprising the step:  
- storing said clinical application on a server,  
- installing said clinical application into the diagnostic workstation on request by the Dynamic Display Protocol  
- starting said clinical application on request by the Dynamic Display Protocol.

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9. Method according to any of claims 7 and 8, comprising the step:  
- storing in said hanging protocol an identifier of the server storing the clinical application together with the identifier of the clinical application itself.

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10. Method according to any of claims 7 and 8, comprising the step:
  - storing the configurations and settings for a clinical application on the same server as the one where the hanging protocol is stored.

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11. Method according to claim 10, comprising the step:
  - storing the image specific settings associated with a clinical application on the same server as the one where the hanging protocol is stored.